



Office of Community Services

Low Income Household Water Assistance Program | LIHWAP

How Federal Aid for High Water Costs Helps Struggling Families

Stats for FY2022

CALIFORNIA A State Snapshot



Total funding received: **\$116,496,312**

Program start date: **May 31, 2022**

Months providing benefits in FY22: **4**



How has LIHWAP impacted households in need in California?

Individuals Served:

20,879

Average LIHWAP benefit

\$793.39

Highest LIHWAP benefit amount

\$2,000

Of LIHWAP's funding⁶ in California...

92.7%

has prevented disconnections, while

7.3%

has restored services

THE COST OF WATER IN CALIFORNIA

Nationally, water is the fastest growing household utility service. As a result, many Americans in California are struggling to pay their water and wastewater bills.

Median water and wastewater rate in 2022

\$113.45

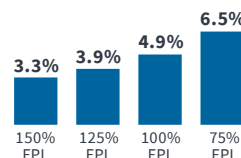
Rate includes water + sewer per month¹

Income-eligible individuals

7,703,268

Total individuals under 150% FPL²

Percent of income spent on water/ wastewater by poverty rate³



FPL: Federal Poverty Level⁴

What is LIHWAP?

LIHWAP is the first-ever federal water assistance program to help meet unmet water needs across the country by helping low-income households pay for their water and wastewater bills.

Who in California benefits?

LIHWAP benefits households with the lowest incomes, and who pay a high proportion of income for drinking water or are facing water disconnection. This includes:

California households benefited

6,142

Households with at least one vulnerable individual⁵

58%



I didn't know which way to go or what to do, [t]he water... went off when I wasn't expecting it to happen, but it happened...thank you so much for your help.

– California LIHWAP Household



www.acf.hhs.gov/ocs/programs/lihwap | waterhelp.info

¹Water and sewer data from Duke University Nicholas Institute for Energy, Environment and Sustainability (2022). Represents large and very large utilities at usage rate of 10,000 gallons/month for inside customers

²Calculated from ACS 2021 1-year estimates, individuals with income below 150% poverty level

³Poverty rate: US Census Bureau American Community Survey

⁴FPL: US Dept of Health and Human Services

⁵Unduplicated Vulnerable Households with at least one older adult, person with disabilities, child under 5

⁶Out of LIHWAP funding spent on benefits; excludes administrative costs.

Partnerships established

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